

CHURCH OF SWEDEN'S BLASPHEMY

Updated July 26, 2002 (first published May 22, 1999) (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

The Lutheran state Church of Sweden, a member of the World Council of Churches, is as blasphemously liberal as it is possible to be. The Archbishop of Sweden, Dr. Karl-Gustav Hammar, supports the ordination of homosexual priests. A few months ago the Lutheran Cathedral in Uppsala exhibited poster-sized photographs depicting Jesus Christ and the Apostles as homosexuals. One photograph depicted “a transvestite version of the Last Supper” and another “a naked portrait of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist” (The Irish Times, Oct. 8, 1998).

In 1984, Krister Stendahl, a Church of Sweden bishop, stated in an interview with journalist Elisabeth Frankl that “to hold to a belief in just one God is idolatry” and that one can pray to God as “Energy” (Christian News, Nov. 19, 1984, translated from the Swedish Lutheran quarterly Biblicum). Stendahl claimed that God is more urgently concerned with bringing justice in the world than with “saving souls.” When asked directly if he believed in God, Stendahl replied, “I think I’ve risen above matters of faith and doubt. ... I really don’t know what it means to ask whether ‘there is’ a God.” He said, “the whole question of God’s existence leaves me cold.” When asked about life after death, Stendahl replied that an idea of a heavenly paradise is a “childish human dream.”

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